

## ENERGY BILL

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we focused on the energy bill the Republicans put forth and on ANWR, but there are other problems with the bill. Time is short and we cannot spend too much time on it. For example, one of the things that bill does not have included is vehicle fuel efficiency. It failed to provide an increase in fuel efficiency standards for light trucks, sport utility vehicles, and minivans. I think it should provide additional standards for passenger automobiles in general.

Dealing with just light trucks, sport utility vehicles, and minivans, the provisions would reduce overall national gasoline usage by 1 percent. Closing the SUV loophole would substantially reduce air pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, and save consumers billions at the gas pump each year. The current standard established in 1989 is 27.5 miles for passenger automobiles, sports utility vehicles, SUVs, and minivans. A much larger increase in fuel efficiency would be paid for. I have no doubt that is the case in future fuel savings. That is something not addressed in the bill.

Also in the bill they provide \$33.5 billion over 10 years in tax breaks for electric utilities and oil and natural gas exploration. No offset was provided for the additional tax breaks, and only 17 percent is for energy efficiency and 83 percent for fossil fuels and nuclear power. While from a strict policy standpoint this is not good, from the sense that we need not give them any more tax breaks than they have, even if you disagree with that statement, you should be concerned about the fact there is no offset for the tax breaks. Further, over 10 years, this is adding \$33.5 billion in deficit spending for our country.

We have to be very careful. There are many problems with this legislation. It is more than the arctic wilderness. We have focused on that. They are weakening environmental protections and drilling in national forests. There are a number of things we cannot lose sight of that include more than just the national arctic wilderness.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. I ask during this quorum call that the time be charged equally against both sides.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## SENATE WORK

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, we continue to hear in the Senate a powerful argument put forth by the assistant majority leader. Yet I am struck by the idea the Railroad Retirement Act under consideration now is a given. There are 70 cosponsors on that piece of legislation; I am one of the cosponsors. Yet we are also denied the ability to move an energy policy act that the Nation is demanding, as well as a stimulus package which, again, the Nation favors.

I challenge my colleagues and Americans by asking why just a few can deny a State such as Alaska its ability to develop and market its own natural resources, not only for the good of the economy of Alaska but also at a time when this Nation's economy is struggling and it would contribute to the rebuilding of that economy. I find that disheartening. This is important.

The season of Christmas is fast approaching. We should be finishing up our work. There are two things that have to be done: Finish the appropriations process to run this Government, and also develop an appropriation for our military in a time we are at war. By the way, this is a war that will not be won at Camp Pendleton, Fort Bragg, or any other military installation, but will be won in every community around this country. Yet the military now is carrying the load to destroy the core of terrorism.

Why deny those resources when just across the border, in the tundra—and one must remember, this is not a pristine wilderness when we talk about ANWR, as one might envision wilderness in my State of Montana where we already have 3.5 million acres. This is tundra. It runs for miles and miles and miles. It can be developed to the advantage of this country and to its economy without disturbing hardly anything that far north.

At a time when the national economy is struggling, if you can provide any kind of a job, anything that would contribute to the rebuilding of that economy and the infrastructure of it, that should not be denied.

What do we hear? We hear how much we need an energy policy, but we see no action in the Senate. We hear the speeches about a stimulus package, yet no action is forthcoming. We talk about conservation. It has been a foregone conclusion of the task force that was put together under the chairmanship of the Vice President, when they look at our energy situation and assess it, that they will conclude we should

then take the proper actions so we can rely on our own ability to provide the energy for our country. The conclusion was drawn that we cannot conserve our way out of this one.

This past weekend, I looked at the area with probably the greatest utilization of wind power that we have in this country. Yet it only contributes less than 1 percent to the Nation's need for electricity. That will not work.

I can tell you what spurs conservation faster and more efficiently than any rule, law, or regulation that the Government could impose: High prices. All you have to do is ask those who live in California. That is what spurs conservation. That is what spurs the imagination and the inventiveness of this society. When the cost goes high from the lack of a supply of energy, that spurs us to deal with it.

So I say, yes, maybe the unions oppose the Lott amendment. They would not oppose the Lott amendment if it was a stand-alone, though. It just happens to be on a railroad retirement act. That act has the support of over 70 Senators in this body.

So I challenge my colleagues and I challenge Americans, when Canada develops their energy supply and a way to deliver it to their people, keeping their energy costs so low that they are a very strong competitor in the global market, are we denied that? We have to look at ourselves and say, why? Based on science? I do not think so. Based on technology? I know that is not true. So we have to conclude the reasons lie in other areas.

As we hear this debate about going forward, I want Americans to understand and realize this about the development of our energy resources. Conservation as we defined it and as it has always been defined is the wise use of a natural resource. Why can't this move forward? It would but for a few who are opposed because of other reasons, other than science and technology.

So I hope the Lott amendment can be approved and we can move forward on this issue, finish our work on appropriations, finish our work on the stimulus, and go home for the holidays. I know there are those who want to go home a little bit earlier. I am not one of those who say we should leave with our work undone because the last time I looked, I think I get a check for the month of December. So we might as well work if that be the choice of this body.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Utah is recognized.

## RAILROAD RETIREMENT REFORM

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today in strong support of the Railroad Retirement and Survivors' Improvement Act. This is good, common sense